

*Training 4*

DCI/IC 75-0986  
24 November 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : Status Report--Linguists Requirements  
for the Community

1. Subsequent to the 11 August 1975 IRAC we requested DoD, CIA and State INR, to provide information which would allow us to size the Community's linguist problems. This information was requested in order to substantiate the problem and to have adequate background to address the problem in the NFIPR. Responses to your tasking letter have been received and we are addressing the problems in the forthcoming report to the President.

2. In summary the input data indicates:

a. We are dealing with some 50 different basic languages with numerous dialects associated with several of them.

b. There are more than 20 uncommon languages--Afrikaans, Azerborjani, Kirghiz, Mongolian, etc.--for which there is a need for linguists, but virtually none are available.

c. Although the departments and agencies are programming school inputs, returns are not meeting requirements with qualified personnel.

d. The career development pattern for civilian linguists takes them out of real linguistic work and puts them into managerial positions as they progress to the higher pay grades. (This situation can be overcome only by changing civilian job classification criteria and recognizing that competent linguists are just as valuable as other scientists.)

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e. The Army is facing their linguist problems head-on with the recent establishment of Linguistic Consultant Board (LINCOB), under General Aaron. The LINCOB is working toward assuring that adequate members of people are in training; the trained linguists are in the right job; that there is a well developed career program; linguists not in overseas deployed units are given realistic assignments, etc.

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g. Considerable effort is going into working with the academic and DLI world to improve the quality of linguists coming out of formal training.

h. DoD, particularly NSA, is working on plans and training to improve their linguistic capability in the near, intermediate and long terms.

i. There are efforts in the R&D world to assist in the language processing.

3. Unlike CIA and DoD, State INR reports little difficulty in manning their linguists requirement. They draw from the Foreign Service to fill the slots which cannot be filled by Civil Service (GS) personnel.

4. The initial input to this problem has provided useful information needed to size the problem in the NFIPR. There will be follow-up in several areas as we get the budget put to bed and have some catch up time after the first of the year. We are particularly interested in following through on the various recommendations submitted for improvements in language processing. Additionally, we will provide an update to IRAC, after we have had an opportunity to delve deeper into the various responses.

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